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Station: Berlin

Registry No: MGB-920
Report No: 634

Reference: AB 36

Report Date: 17 December 1946
Information Date: Current

Source: Gull

Evaluation: C

Date Info Received: 29 November 1946

SUBJECT: SPHINX PROJECT: INTERVIEW WITH GRJASNOW. *ed*

1. This is the fourth of a series of reports dealing with the project wherein source will attempt a comprehensive survey of all dissident Slav elements in Berlin. Previous reports include BSC/Ops/003 dated 2 December 1946, Report No. 626/MGB-911, dated 3 December 1946, and Report No. 633, MGB-919, dated 17 December 1946.

2. On 27 November 1946, source visited Georg GRJASNOW at his home, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Markgraf-Albrechtstrasse 14. Present were also the latter's wife Lidia, and the wife's 26-year old son, Julius JESSERICH, who lives at the same address.

3. GRJASNOW declared that in December 1944 he had been arrested by the Gestapo. According to his own story, this arrest was the result of his having given assistance to Russian forced laborers, but according to other information received by source, the arrest was due to his having illegally bought food ration cards. In any event, he was released in March 1945 and moved to his villa near Berlin, where for a time both GRJASNOW and JESSERICH worked as interpreters at the Luftwaffe unit stationed in that village. When the Russians came, GRJASNOW was arrested by the MVD's "Osobij Otdel" (Special Branch) and accused of being a Gestapo agent. He was interrogated on three occasions, was beaten and man-handled until he lost consciousness, and was then released.

4. After his release, GRJASNOW again worked as an interpreter, and then as a supplier of goods. In 1946 he signed a contract with the Russian Air Force supply branch (Woenorg), with a certain Captain KULAGIN, and delivered wares he bought in Saxony and Berlin to Russian officers. He had excellent relations with the Russians, and earned very much money.

5. Two months ago he broke his contract with the Russian unit (which had in the meantime moved to Oranienburg) and now works for himself. However, he still goes freely into the Russian Sector of Berlin. GRJASNOW, as well as his wife, are fed up with the Russians, and like almost all of the old emigrants, are anxious and frightened by them. GRJASNOW would like to move to Western Germany.

6. GRJASNOW and wife and JESSERICH all declared that the following people are Russian agents:

- a. The old Russian emigrant TUGAN-BARANOWSKY and his son.
- b. Dr. MENTSCHEL, dentist, and his son. (cf paragraph 6, Report No. 633, MGB-919, dated 17 December 1946)
- c. Nikolaus WASSILJEW, Berlin-Schoeneberg, Neue Winterfeldstrasse. One-time Major in the Tsarist army, emigre, who has been in closest contact with the Russians since their arrival. Has his own telephone. (NOTE: The April 1946 Berlin telephone directory lists a Nikolai WASSILJEW, liaison man at the Magistrat, residence, Berlin-Schoeneberg, Nollendorfstrasse 4.)

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